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2,361 Central Indiana Workers Benefit from State Training Grants

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan today announced that the Indiana Department of Commerce has awarded five south central Indiana companies with grants from its Skills Enhancement Fund.

“These companies are committed to improving their workforce through training,” said Kernan, who leads the state’s economic development efforts as director of Commerce. “We are happy to assist companies such as these as they train their employees in necessary skills and upgrade their facilities, which will keep them competitive in this ever-changing economy.”

- **Aisin Drivetrain Inc.**, Crothersville, has been awarded \$185,000 in training grants to train 26 new and 376 existing employees as part of a \$14.7 million investment in equipment upgrades. Aisin Drivetrain was founded in 1996 by its parent company, AISIN World Corp. of America. The company manufactures drivetrain and brake assemblies for companies such as Toyota. Aisin Drivetrain will use the grant to train employees in various transferable skills as well as blueprint reading, team building and problem solving.
- **Aisin U.S.A. Manufacturing Inc.**, Seymour, has been awarded \$84,500 to train 140 new and 150 incumbent employees following the company’s \$25 million capital investment to building and equipment upgrades. Aisin U.S.A. is a leading manufacturer of high quality auto components. Established in 1970, the company fostered the distribution of many of its parents company’s products. Aisin’s products range from auto to home appliances to industrial machinery. The company will use the Commerce grant to train employees in forklift operation, problem solving and communications.
- **Delta Faucet Co.**, Greensburg, has been awarded \$200,000 in grants to train 1,070 existing employees following a company investment of \$10 million in building and equipment upgrades. Delta, a division of Masco Corp., makes quality faucets for residential, commercial and institutional installations. The company will use the grant to train employees in skills such as team building and coaching, computers, lean manufacturing and hydraulics.

- **ECA Enterprises, Inc.**, Edinburgh, has been awarded a grant of \$11,600 to train 28 new and 23 existing employees in conjunction with a \$75,000 capital investment in facility and equipment upgrades. Founded in 1989 as a contract manufacturer focusing on assembly and fabrication of plastic components, today the company produces air manifolds for hospital beds mattresses, wire harnesses and assemblies for diesel engines. Using the Commerce assistance the company will offer employees training in lean manufacturing, maintenance and forklift operation.
- **M & S Precision Machine Inc.**, Greensburg, has been awarded a \$15,700 grant to train 18 new and 32 incumbent employees as part of a \$1.6 million investment in building and equipment upgrades. M & S Precision Machine provides machining services such as assembly, sorting and process development. The company will use the grant to train employees in blueprint reading, gages, machine set-up and basic math.
- **R.R. D. Direct Seymour**, Seymour, has been awarded \$25,000 to retrain 86 existing employees following the company's \$1.5 million investment to purchase new equipment. Owned by Chicago-based R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co., the company started in 1992 and produces direct mail pieces. Using the Commerce grant employees will pick up skills in English, Spanish, roll tending and press operation among others.
- **Sintering Technologies Inc.**, Greensburg, has been awarded \$81,000 to train 255 incumbent employees as part of a \$3.9 million capital investment in building improvements and equipment upgrades. Sintering Technologies manufactures precision-made valve guides, valve seats, gears and sprockets and will use the Commerce grant to train employees in pneumatics, hydraulics, gauge reading and problem solving.
- **TASUS Corp.**, Bloomington, has been awarded \$46,750 to train 26 new and 131 existing employees as a part of the company's \$3.2 million investment in building improvements and the purchase of new equipment. A joint venture between Tsuchiya Co. Ltd. & Schiegel Corp., the company was incorporated in 1986 and produces injection molded original equipment manufactured parts and assemblies for the automotive industry. TAUSUS Corp. will use the funding to train employees in basic reading, writing and team building skills as well as English-as-a-second-language, warehousing, injection molding and welding techniques among others.

The Skills Enhancement Fund aids Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects by helping to defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about these or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.